

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 171403Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4825

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13486

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, TU, US, UK

SUBJECT: REFUGEES IN SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS

REF: STATE 228208

1. WE CHECKED WITH FCO'S WESTON UPON RECEIPT REFTEL MORNING OCT 17. HE INFORMS US BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER ACTED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING. INSTRUCTIONS HE REFERRED TO WERE PART OF INTERNAL WORKING BRIEF PRIMARILY SEEKING WASHINGTON EMBASSY'S REACTION TO FCO IDEAS FOR MODALITIES OF EVENTUAL SOLUTION TO SBA REFUGEE IMPASSE. WESTON ASSURED US CATEGORICALLY THAT BRITISH ARE NOT FEELING ANY NEW DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE AND HAVE NO PRESENT PLANS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT SBA REFUGEES.

2. BRITISH WENT BACK TO TURKS LAST WEEK WITH RENEWED INVITATION FOR DENKTASH OR OTHER HIGH TURKISH OFFICIAL TO VISIT REFUGEES IN SBA. TURKS HAVE NOT YET EVEN RESPONDED. CONSEQUENTLY THERE IS LITTLE DISPOSITION BY FCO OFFICIALS TO PUT ANY PROPOSAL REGARDING REFUGEES IN SBA TO MINISTERS IN THIS BUSY POST-ELECTION PERIOD.

3. WESTON READILY ACCEPTED OUR SUGGESTION THAT NO RPT NO FORMAL OR DEFINITIVE USG REPLY IS NECESSARY. WE TOLD HIM
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DEPARTMENT WAS THINKING IT WOULD BE GOOD IDEA FOR BRITISH

TO HOLD OFF FOR A WHILE LONGER. HE AGREED, NOTING RECENT INFORMATION FROM AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD IN NICOSIA THAT CLE- RIDES-DENKTASH TALKS APPEAR TO BE MAKING PROGRESS ON RE- FUGEE QUESTION. WESTON ACCEPTED OUR SUGGESTION THAT ONLY AN INFORMAL REPLY BE GIVEN IN DUE COURSE TO BRITISH EM- BASSY WASHINGTON, RESERVING MORE FORMAL U.S. REPLY FOR MOMENT WHEN BRITISH DECISION MAY BE IMMINENT. WESTON SAID BRITISH WOULD ALSO LIKE U.S. IDEAS, IF WE CARE TO GIVE THEM, ON DETAILS OF MODALITIES THEY PROPOSE.

4. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT OFFICER MENTION THIS CONVERSATION TO BRITISH EMBASSY AND REPLY ALONG LINES PARA 3 OF REFTTEL. HOWEVER, SUGGEST LAST PHRASE BEGINNING WITH "BUT" BE EXCISED. IT WOULD ONLY LET THE BRITISH OFF THE HOOK. IN ANY CASE, WE SUS- PECT USG REACTION IS WELCOMED AT FCO OFFICIAL LEVELS WHERE THERE IS STRONG FEELING THAT SOME CONCESSION SHOULD BE EXTRACTED FROM TURKS IN RETURN FOR PERMITTING TRANSPORT OF TURKISH REFUGEES. OUR COMMENTS AS TO SPECIFIC MODALI- TIES CAN AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION. (FYI BRITISH HAVE BEEN PLAYING WITH NUMBER OF IDEAS RELATED TO ONE SURFACED BY BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER.)

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